Outsourcing by Railways

3178. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the services of UK firm to get the stink out of the toilet at Church Gate railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for such outsourcing of work to a foreign agency when we have our own effective and indigenous mechanism;

(c) whether MoU was signed with foreign agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cost effectiveness and advantage of such outsourcing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion in Karnataka

3179. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to convert Hassan-Mangalore railway line into broad-gauge is yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the present status of the project, the amount spent, so far, and the likely date by when the line would be opened for the passenger trains;

(c) whether projects like Hubli-Ankola (new line), Solapur-Gadag (gauge conversion) and Hospet-Guntkal (line doubling) have been proposed by Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore line has already been completed and commissioned for goods traffic. However, Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur ghat section is yet to be opened for passenger services. This section will be opened for passenger services after inspection and authorization by Commissioner of Railway Sefety (CRS), which will be planned after monsoon.

So far, an amount of Rs. 334 crore has been spent on Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion project.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. State Government have requested for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. The status of these are as under:—

Hubli-Ankola:- Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on Hubli-Kirvatti section. Land acquisition for balance land and diversion of forest land has also been taken up.

Solapur-Gadag: Work on Solapur-Bijapur-Basawana Bagewadi (155 Kms) and Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot has been completed. This is a cost sharing project and State Government has been requested to provide their matching share for the project.

Hospet-Guntakal: Work on Guntakal-Tornagallu has already been completed and Tornagallu-Hospet is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

Promotional activities undertaken by SSIs Development Organisation (SSIDO)

3180. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of promotional activities undertaken by Small Scale Industries Development Organization in West Bengal, during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the number of proposals put forward by the West Bengal in respect of Small Scale Industries during 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Scheme-wise details of the promotional activities undertaken by the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in West Bengal during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given inthe enclosed statement (*See* below). Most of the schemes under implementation are demand-driven.